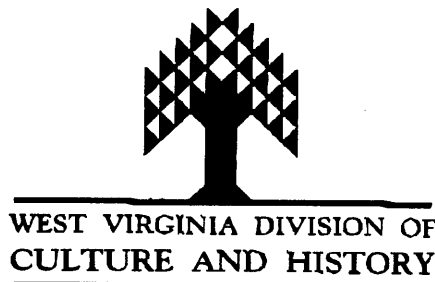


May 3, 2004

EI-809  
KB

Mr. Dave Geraci  
CSX Transportation  
500 Water Street- J200  
Jacksonville, FL 32202

RE: Docket AB-55 (Sub-No. 625X)  
Line Abandonment  
FR#: 03-699-PR-5

Dear Mr. Geraci:

We have reviewed the above mentioned project to determine its effects to cultural resources. As required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800: "Protection of Historic Properties," we submit our comments.

Architectural Resources:

This letter is intended to clarify our earlier letter dated August 12, 2003. At that time our office stated, "removal of track materials will constitute an Adverse Effect to this historic resource." That statement should have been clarified to indicate that the removal of track, ties and the upper layer of ballast or On Track Materials (OTM) was not in itself an Adverse Effect. Our office is concerned with the loss of the rail corridor and the bridges, tunnels, depots, etc. that exist along such railways.

According to information discussed on May 3, and your letter dated March 19, 2004, CSX Transportation has voluntarily agreed to enter into negotiations regarding the potential trail use for the proposed line abandonment. Immediate removal of all OTM will not effect the eligibility of the resource. If the trail use agreement is not finalized and further dismantling of the corridor, such as the removal of all bridges or tunnels occurs, those actions will be considered an Adverse Effect to this rail corridor and it will be necessary to complete a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with appropriate documentation to mitigate the adverse effect.

We look forward to learning the outcome of your negotiations and working with you to complete the review and compliance process.

*If you have questions regarding our comments or the Section 106 process, please call Jennifer Murdock, Structural Historian at (304) 558-0240.*

Sincerely,

Susan M. Pierce  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

SMP:jwm